

THE HONORABLE BARBARA J. ROTHSTEIN

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

WSOU INVESTMENTS, LLC d/b/a BRAZOS
LICENSING AND DEVELOPMENT,

Plaintiff,

v.

F5 NETWORKS, INC.,

Defendant.

No. 2:21-cv-00124-BJR

**F5 NETWORKS, INC.'S ANSWER
TO COMPLAINT**

Defendant F5 Networks, Inc. ("F5" or "Defendant"), by and through its attorneys, respectfully submits this Answer and Affirmative Defenses to Plaintiff's Complaint for Patent Infringement (the "Complaint") filed January 29, 2021 (D.I. 1), by Plaintiff WSOU Investments, LLC d/b/a Brazos Licensing and Development ("WSOU" or "Plaintiff").

The headings below track those used in the Complaint and are for convenience only. They do not constitute any part of F5's Answer to the Complaint or any admission by F5 as to the truth of the matters asserted. F5 further states that anything in the Complaint that is not expressly admitted is hereby denied.

ANSWER TO THE COMPLAINT

Parties

1. F5 is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in this paragraph and therefore denies all such allegations.

3. F5 admits that the Complaint is styled as an action for patent infringement arising under Title 35 of the United States Code.

5. F5 does not contest that this Court, in the Western District of Washington, has personal jurisdiction over F5 for purposes of this action. F5 denies the remaining allegations of this paragraph.

6. F5 admits that venue is proper in this Court for purposes of this action. F5 denies the remaining allegations of this paragraph.

7. F5 is without sufficient knowledge or information to form a belief as to the truth of the allegations in this paragraph and therefore denies all such allegations.

8. F5 admits a purported copy of U.S. Patent No. 9,584,330 (“the ’330 patent” or “Asserted Patent”) attached to the Complaint as Exhibit 1 indicates that it is entitled “Method for generating a real time billing information in a packet switching based network and network element”, it issued on February 28, 2017, and the application leading to the ’330 patent was filed on October 31, 2007. F5 denies any remaining allegations of this paragraph.

COUNT 1: INFRINGEMENT OF THE '330 PATENT

10. F5 incorporates by reference each of its responses set forth in the paragraphs above as if fully set forth herein.

1 11. Denied.

2 12. Denied.

3 13. F5 admits it was served with the Complaint. F5 denies the remaining allegations
4 of this paragraph.

5 14. Denied.

6 15. Denied.

7 16. Denied.

8 17. F5 admits that Exhibit 2 to the Complaint purports to compare claims of the '330
9 patent to F5's "BIG-IP Policy Enforcement Manager." F5 denies the remaining allegations of this
10 paragraph.

11 18. F5 admits a pleading may adopt an exhibit by reference to the extent allowed under
12 Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 10(c).

13 19. Denied.

14 **Jury Demand**

15 20. WSOU's demand for a jury trial does not require a response from F5.

16 **WSOU's Prayer for Relief**

17 To the extent any response is required to any paragraph of WSOU's Prayer for Relief,
18 including without limitation its statements labeled A-F(iii), F5 denies that WSOU is entitled to any
19 relief from F5 and denies any allegations underlying or stated in WSOU's requested relief.

20 **AFFIRMATIVE DEFENSES**

21 Subject to the responses above, F5 alleges and asserts the following defenses in response
22 to the allegations, undertaking the burden of proof only as to those defenses deemed affirmative
23 defenses by law and without reducing or removing WSOU's burden of proof on its affirmative
24 claims against F5, regardless of how such defenses are denominated herein. In addition to the
25 affirmative defenses described below, F5 specifically reserves all right to allege additional
26 affirmative defenses that become known through the course of discovery.

First Affirmative Defense

21. F5 does not, has not, and will not infringe, literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, willfully or otherwise, any valid, properly construed claim of the Asserted Patent, either directly, indirectly, contributorily, by inducement, or in any other manner.

Second Affirmative Defense

22. Each claim of the Asserted Patent is invalid for failure to comply with one or more of the statutory requirements specified in Title 35 of the United States Code, including, but not limited to 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and/or 112.

Third Affirmative Defense

23. To the extent that WSOU and any predecessors in interest to the Asserted Patent failed to properly mark any of their relevant products as required by 35 U.S.C. § 287, or otherwise give proper notice that F5's actions allegedly infringed the Asserted Patent, F5 is not liable to WSOU for the acts alleged to have been performed before it received actual notice that it was allegedly infringing the Asserted Patent.

Fourth Affirmative Defense

24. WSOU's claims for damages are statutorily limited or barred by 35 U.S.C. §§ 286 and 287. WSOU is further barred under 35 U.S.C. § 288 from recovering costs associated with its action.

Fifth Affirmative Defense

25. WSOU's claims are barred, in whole or in part, based upon prosecution history estoppel, prosecution history disclaimer, and/or the internally inconsistent litigation positions WSOU has explicitly or implicitly taken with respect to the Asserted Patent in proceedings before the USPTO in the prosecution of the Asserted Patent. As a result, WSOU is estopped to maintain that the claims of the Asserted Patent are broad enough to cover any F5 product alleged to infringe the Asserted Patent, either literally or by application of the doctrine of equivalents.

Sixth Affirmative Defense

26. The claims of the Asserted Patent are not entitled to a scope sufficient to encompass any of the allegedly infringing acts practiced by F5.

Seventh Affirmative Defense

27. WSOU is precluded from recovering its reasonable attorneys' fees, costs, and/or increased damages under 35 U.S.C. §§ 284 or 285.

Reservation of Rights

F5 expressly reserves the right to assert any other legal or equitable defenses to which it is shown to be entitled, including all affirmative defenses under Rule 8(c) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, the Patent Laws of the United States, and any other defenses that may now exist or in the future be available based on discovery or further factual investigation in this case.

F5'S COUNTERCLAIMS

Pursuant to Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 13, Defendant and now Counter-Plaintiff F5, brings these Counterclaims against Plaintiff and now Counter-Defendant WSOU. F5 seeks declaratory relief pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§ 2201 and 2202, declaring United States Patent No. 7,953,330 (the "'330 patent") invalid, unenforceable, and not infringed by F5.

The Parties

1. Counterclaim Plaintiff F5 Networks, Inc. is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State of Washington with its corporate headquarters at 801 5th Ave, Seattle, WA 98104.

2. Upon information and belief based on Paragraph 1 of the Complaint as pleaded by WSOU, Counterclaim Defendant WSOU is a Delaware corporation with its principal place of business at 605 Austin Avenue, Suite 6, Waco, Texas 76701.

Jurisdiction and Venue

3. These counterclaims arise under the patent laws of the United States, Title 35, United States Code. The jurisdiction of this Court is proper under at least 35 U.S.C. § 271 et seq.,

1 and 28 U.S.C. §§ 1331, 1338, 1367, 2201, and 2202.

2 4. WSOU has consented to the personal jurisdiction of this court by at least pursuing
3 its action for patent infringement in this District and stipulating to venue in this District (Dkt. 15).

4 5. Based on WSOU's conduct in this action, venue is proper in this District pursuant
5 to at least 28 U.S.C. § 1391.

6 **COUNT I**

7 **Declaration of Non-Infringement of the '330 Patent**

8 6. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between the parties as to F5's non-
9 infringement of the '330 Patent based on WSOU's filing of the Complaint this action and F5's
10 Answer and Affirmative Defenses above.

11 7. F5 does not infringe at least claim 1 of the '330 Patent, either directly or indirectly,
12 and either literally or under the doctrine of equivalents, through its use or incorporation of any
13 technology, including the Exemplary Defendant Products as defined by WSOU. For example, the
14 accused instrumentality does not include "generating, via a network element, a first message with
15 a first token that indicates the billing rate upon receipt of a first charge message that contains said
16 billing rate from said circuit switching based network and based on said first charge message,
17 wherein the billing server is informed of said billing rate" or any equivalent thereof or "generating,
18 via the network element, a second message with a second token that indicates the interval of billing
19 upon receipt of a subsequent charge message that contains said interval of billing and based on
20 said subsequent charge message, wherein the billing server is informed of said interval of billing"
21 or any equivalent thereof, and thus does not infringe the '330 Patent.

22 8. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 et seq., F5
23 seeks a declaration that F5 has not infringed and does not infringe any claim of the '330 Patent
24 under any theory, including directly (whether individually or jointly) and indirectly (whether
25 contributorily or by inducement).
26

COUNT II

Declaration of Invalidity of the '330 Patent

9. An actual and justiciable controversy exists between the parties as to the invalidity of the '330 Patent based on WSOU's filing of the Complaint in this action and F5's Answer and Affirmative Defenses above.

10. The claims of the '330 Patent are invalid for failure to satisfy one or more of the requirements of Title 35 of the United States Code, including, without limitation, 35 U.S.C. §§ 101–103 and 112. For example, the claims are anticipated and/or rendered obvious by the prior art. In another example, the claims lack written description, are not enabled, and/or are not sufficiently definite.

11. Pursuant to the Federal Declaratory Judgment Act, 28 U.S.C. § 2201 et seq., F5 seeks a declaration that all claims of the '330 patent are invalid for failure to comply with one or more of the requirements of United States Code, Title 35, including without limitation 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102, 103, and 112.

JURY DEMAND

Pursuant to Rule 38 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure, F5 hereby demands trial by jury on all triable issues in WSOU's Complaint and F5's Answer, Affirmative Defenses, and Counterclaims.

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, F5 respectfully prays for the following relief:

- a. A dismissal with prejudice of WSOU's Complaint against F5;
- b. A judgment in favor of F5 on all of its Counterclaims;
- c. A judgment that WSOU is not entitled to any relief whatsoever, whether in law or equity or otherwise, from its suit against F5;
- d. A declaration that the claims of the '330 patent are invalid for failure to meet the conditions of patentability and/or otherwise comply with one or more of 35 U.S.C. §§ 101, 102,

103, and 112;

e. A declaration that F5 has not infringed (directly, indirectly, willfully, literally and/or under the doctrine of equivalents) any valid and enforceable claim of the '330 patent;

f. A declaration that this case is exceptional under 35 U.S.C. § 285 and an award to F5 of its reasonable cost and attorneys' fees; and

g. Such other and further relief as the Court deems just and proper.

DATED: February 26, 2021

/s/ Ramsey M. Al-Salam

/s/ Stevan R. Stark

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Attorneys for Defendant F5 Networks, Inc.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that on February 26, 2021, I caused copies of the foregoing document to be served via CM/ECF to the counsel of record in this matter.

/s/ Stevan R. Stark
Stevan R. Stark